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OCT 12 2001

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21 MR. VASCONI: We've all got our points and
22 our opinions and I can appreciate yours. I hope you
23 appreciate mine. Thank you for letting me talk as far
24 as DOE goes. I don't mind people getting to their ass
25 because it keeps them on their toes, right? Now are we

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1 ready?

2 MODERATOR BROWN: We're ready.

3 MR. VASCONI: I was born and raised in
4 Pennsylvania, but I've been out here since '64. I
5 worked at the Nevada test site for some 17 years.
6 Probably over that time, there was 240 tests in one way
7 or another, I participated in approximately 120 of
8 them. Nevada test site has had 928 nuclear
9 detonations.

10 Think about that test site. You know, at one
11 time -- it's been there for 50 years. First shot was
12 '51. Last shot was later, September 22nd of '92. We
13 had some 11,000 people working the test site.
14 Presently we're less than that, like 2,000.

15 Think of the technology that came off that
16 Nevada test site, not only nuclear technology, but the

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17 fact that we had some place like Tonopah test ridge for
18 our pilots. Not only that, but the technology come
19 out, don't think it didn't have something to do with
20 the Berlin Wall coming down or the fact that Russia
21 economically couldn't keep up with the advances we were
22 making in that technology.

23 There is a lot of folks at the test site that
24 want to maximize the expertise, scientific
25 technological expertise that has been developed over
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1 the last 50 years in Nevada. Yucca Mountain would not
2 be anything new to those working with nuclear. You do
3 have the management. You do have the manpower. So the
4 question tonight is: Do we have the mountain?

5 Naturally, most of you feel this isn't the
6 place for it. The United States has 110 nuclear
7 powerhouses. 103 is operational. I'm sure you're
8 aware of the fact that other nations have nuclear
9 power. There is 435 nuclear powerhouses in the world.
10 38 more of them are being constructed. Why? You're
11 not going to convince this old man that coal oil,
12 natural gas, is going to be around forever. We're
13 depleting those supplies.

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14 Folks like Japan with 53 nuclear powerhouses
15 -- and, remember, we dropped two bombs on them --
16 depend on it a lot. France has 59. United Kingdom has
17 35. As a matter of fact, the United Kingdom used a
18 test site for a test area. They detonated 24 nuclear
19 devices. The United Kingdom, England, Scotland,
20 Ireland, would fit inside the state of Nevada.

21 We're in Nye County. A little bit of trivia
22 right here. What do we got common with those states
23 back east? I'll tell you what you got in common with
24 them. Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland,
25 Massachusetts, would all fit inside the county of Nye,
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1 and half of New Hampshire. We're the seventh largest
2 state. Does that mean anything to anybody?

3 When you say, why don't they keep it back
4 east and move it 100 miles from their largest
5 metropolitan area, they would be in another state. Of
6 our original 13 states, nine of them would fit inside
7 the state of Nevada.

8 We can tell ourselves we don't have time for
9 those folks back east. We don't have time for those
10 things nuclear. Those folks back east, they build

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11 airplanes just like they do on the west coast. They
12 build ships. Most of our ships right now are nuclear.
13 You got 10 nuclear-powered carriers. You got 65
14 nuclear-power submarines; five more being built. You
15 know their carrying that war against Afghanistan right
16 now. Those planes are leaving the decks of nuclear
17 carriers. Those cruise missiles are coming out of the
18 bowels of those submarines to Afghanistan. Those folks
19 back east, let's give them a little credit.

20 Nevada says we're battle born. 1864, battle
21 born. Do they know where Manassus is? Fredericksburg?
22 Bull Run? I'm from Pennsylvania. Gettysburg? The
23 total population of the state of Nevada would have
24 became a state was 16,000 people. There was more men
25 lost on those battlefields in one day than the entire

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1 population of Nevada when Nevada claimed battle born.

2 Nevada says it's all for our country. That's
3 our state motto, "All For Our Country." By the sounds
4 of things tonight, we're all for ourselves. We're all
5 for ourselves. We want the technology that comes in.
6 We want the automobiles whether they're made in France,
7 Germany, Japan, Gary, Indiana, or Detroit, made with

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8 nuclear power. That's okay. We want those atomic
9 submarines, aircraft carriers. That's okay.

10 What do you give out of Clark County for a
11 product when people come here? Nothing more than
12 memories. When they leave here, our gross income is
13 based on what monies they have left behind them.
14 That's what our gross economy is. We've got 25,000
15 people in Vegas. What do they got to look forward to?
16 Bed changers, dealers, dishwashers, busboys. We have
17 no technology in this town. I heard people from the
18 university talk tonight. I sure appreciate it. We
19 need to diversify our economy.

20 MODERATOR BROWN: One minute left.

21 MR. VASCONI: One minute left. I hope I
22 don't have one minute left. I tell you why. I've come
23 up to this mike a good many times. I want to have one
24 minute left, but I want to spend it saying I want to be
25 on advisory committees or a portion of advisory

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1 committees where folks are talking about environmental
2 concerns, social economic impacts, infrastructure,
3 north-south railroad system that's a multiuse,
4 businessmen involved in supplying supplies, et cetera,

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5 to the Yucca Mountain Project. I want to see it when
6 we finally realize that nuclear goes far beyond what
7 you call commercial-spent fuel rods.

8 Your concerns on terrorism can be answered in
9 one thing. Mary Manning is a newspaper reporter for
10 The Sun. If you're going to walk around the rest of
11 your life with "ifs," what about this "if"? If you're
12 worried about a terrorist attacking a train or a truck
13 load of nuclear waste -- believe me, if I was a
14 terrorist, trying to blow up a truckload of nuclear
15 waste would be one of the last things on my list. Why
16 don't we go to Nellis Air Force base, Nellis Air Force
17 base within a population of 1.2 million people. 1,450
18 nuclear devices are stored at Nellis. If I'm going to
19 fire my rocket, I might as well pick me a good target
20 if I'm going to die for Allah. There's a target.

21 I brought her article inside because I seen
22 one of you publish a paper about terrorism. There is
23 her article and you're more than welcome to have it on
24 the 1,450 nuclear devices stored at Nellis.

25 Again, there is a lot to be said, a lot to be

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1 said. These meetings don't take care of all of it. I

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2 appreciate your comments. But believe me, there is
3 other people that's made comments, too. The National
4 Academy of Sciences, technical review boards -- they're
5 independent of the feds. They're independent of DOE,
6 NRC, EPA. They see no show-stoppers with Yucca
7 Mountain. The reality is, why aren't we involved for
8 ourselves, our health and safety, our environmental
9 concerns? Let's get on with it. We've got work to do
10 as Nevadans. We've also got work to do for the rest of
11 the nation. Let's quit ignoring them.

12 Thank you very much.